

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled) .

1 2. (previously presented) The device as in claim 8, 10 or
2 11, characterized in that, over its length, the channel
3 features varying cross-sectional dimensions or shapes.

1 3. (previously presented) The device as in claim 8, or
2 11, characterized in that a matching stub line serving for the
3 tuning of the acoustic transmission properties between the
4 coupling opening and the input extends into said channel and
5 is itself bounded by the material of the shell member.

1 4. (previously presented) The device as in one of the
2 claims 8, or 11, characterized in that, over at least a
3 substantial segment of its length, the channel extends
4 essentially parallel to the outer surface of the device.

1 5. (previously presented) The device as in one of the
2 claims 8, or 11, characterized in that the device is a custom-
3 moulded hearing aid.

1 6. (previously presented) The device as in one of claims
2 8, or 11, characterized in that the device is a custom-
3 moulded, in-the-ear hearing aid and that the channel is part
4 of a venting system for the ear drum.

1 7. (previously presented) The device as in one of the
2 claims 8, or 11, further comprising another channel,
3 characterized in that at least certain segments of said

4 channels extend in parallel fashion.

1 8. (currently amended) A hearing device comprising an
2 acoustical/electrical converter with an acoustical input being
3 linked by means of a channel to a coupling opening arrangement
4 exclusively at an outer surface of said device adapted to be
5 exposed to ambient when an individual wears said hearing
6 device, said device having a unitary shell member forming said
7 outer surface and defining an inner space distinct from said
8 channel, said channel being comprising a part of said shell
9 member formed by and embedded in the material of said shell
10 member along a major portion of the length of said channel
11 provided in and along said shell member with the major [[a]]
12 ~~substantial~~ portion of said length channel following a contour
13 of said outer surface, ~~and said channel being formed in the~~
14 ~~material of said shell member.~~

9. (canceled).

1 10. (currently amended) A hearing device comprising:
2 a one-part shell member forming at least a portion of an
3 outer surface and of an inner surface towards an
4 inner space of said device, ~~said shell member~~
5 ~~defining an interior space of said device,~~ said
6 shell member forming a channel out of the material
7 of said shell member, said channel being formed in
8 and along said shell member embedded in said shell
9 member over at least a major portion of the length
10 of said channel ~~and being distinct of said interior~~
11 ~~space, and,~~ over at least a said major
12 portion ~~segment of its length,~~ said channel running
13 ~~essentially parallel to said outer surface~~ following
14 a contour of said outer surface; and

15 at least one of an acoustical/electrical converter and an
16 electrical/acoustical converter including an
17 acoustical input or output, respectively, wherein
18 said input or output is acoustically linked to a coupling
19 opening via said channel forming an acoustic path
20 from said input or output to said coupling opening
21 ~~exclusively~~ at an outer surface of said device and
22 adapted to be exposed to ambient or an ear canal of
23 an individual wearing said hearing device but not
24 both, and further wherein
25 said channel is tuned to have specific acoustical
26 characteristics.

1 11. (currently amended) A hearing device comprising:
2 a one-part shell member forming at least a portion of an
3 outer surface and of an inner surface towards an
4 inner space of said device, ~~said shell member~~
5 ~~defining an interior space of said device,~~ said
6 shell member forming a channel out of the material
7 of said shell member, said channel being formed in
8 and along said shell member embedded in said shell
9 member over at least a major portion of the length
10 of said channel, said major portion of said channel
11 ~~a substantial portion of said channel~~ following a
12 contour of said outer surface, ~~said channel also~~
13 ~~being distinct from said interior space;~~
14 an electrical/acoustical converter including an
15 acoustical output, wherein
16 an acoustic path is formed from said output to a coupling
17 opening ~~entirely~~ in said shell member using and
18 comprises said channel, ~~whereby said output is~~
19 ~~acoustically linked to said coupling opening via~~

20 ~~said channel along at least some portion of said~~
21 ~~acoustic path.~~

1 12. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim
2 11, wherein said acoustic path from said output to said
3 coupling opening is exclusively at an outer surface of said
4 device and is adapted to be exposed to an ear canal of an
5 individual wearing said hearing device.

1 13. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim
2 11, wherein said acoustical output is linked to said channel
3 directly, or via a conduit directly linked to said acoustical
4 output and also directly linked to said channel.

1 14. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim 8,
2 wherein an acoustic path is formed from said input to said
3 coupling opening entirely in said shell member using said
4 channel, whereby said output is acoustically linked to said
5 coupling opening via said channel along at least some portion
6 of said acoustic path.

1 15. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim 8,
2 wherein said acoustical input is linked to said channel
3 directly, or via a conduit directly linked to said input and
4 directly linked to said channel.

1 16. (currently amended) An outside-the-ear hearing device
2 comprising:
3 an otoplasty having an outer surface at least partially
4 formed by a one-piece otoplasty shell formed of a
5 material and defining an inner space and an acoustic
6 opening in said outer surface; and
7 an electrical/acoustical transducer having an acoustic
8 output coupled to said opening via an acoustically

9 sealed acoustic lead comprised of said material and
10 ~~integrated~~ a major portion of the length of the lead
11 being embedded at least partially within said shell,
12 wherein said acoustic lead runs as a channel along a
13 contour of the shell and along said major portion is
14 bound by said material of said shell.

1 17. (previously presented) The device of claim 16,
2 wherein said channel has a cross-sectional area or shape that
3 varies along the length of said channel.

1 18. (previously presented) The device of claim 17,
2 further comprising a line section at least partially bound by
3 said material and having an opening connected to said channel,
4 said line section for adapting acoustic transmission
5 conditions between said acoustic output and said opening.

1 19. (previously presented) The device of claim 16,
2 further comprising a line section at least partially bound in
3 said material and having an opening connected to said channel,
4 said line section for adapting acoustic transmission
5 conditions between said acoustic output and said opening.

1 20. (currently amended) An outside-the-ear hearing device
2 comprising:
3 an otoplasty having an outer surface at least partially
4 formed by a one-piece otoplasty shell formed of a
5 material and defining an inner space and an acoustic
6 opening in said outer surface; and
7 an electrical/acoustical transducer having an acoustic
8 output directly coupled to said opening via an
9 acoustically sealed acoustic lead, wherein

10 a major portion of the length of said acoustic lead runs
11 as a channel along the shell and along said major
12 portion being ~~is~~ at least partially embedded ~~bound~~
13 in said material of said shell.

1 21. (new) The hearing device of claim 10, wherein said
2 input or output is acoustically linked to the coupling opening
3 via said channel by forming an acoustic path from said input
4 or output to said coupling opening exclusively at an outer
5 surface of said device.